

# VCAT Chairman's Introductory Remarks.

*NIST*

*VCAT*

E. David Spong

6 March 2007

*EXCERPTS from*

CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY  
VISITING COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

NIST \_\_\_\_\_ VCAT

OBJECTIVE AND DUTIES:

- The Committee shall review and make recommendations regarding *general policy* for the National Institute of Standards and Technology its *organization, its budget, and its programs*.....
- The Committee will function solely as an *advisory body*.....

MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

- *No employee* of the Federal Government shall serve as a member of the Committee.
- The Committee chairperson and vice chairperson shall be *elected* by the members of the Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS:

- The Committee *shall report* to the Director of the Institute. The Director's Office shall provide *staff support* for the Committee.

*EXCERPTS from*

CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY  
VISITING COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

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ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (CONT.):

- The Committee shall provide an *annual report*, ..... for submission to the Congress on or before January 31 in each year. Such report shall deal essentially, though not necessarily exclusively, with *policy issues or matters which affect the Institute, or with which the Committee in its official role as the private sector policy adviser of the Institute is concerned*. Each such report shall identify *areas of program emphasis* for the Institute of *potential importance to the long-term competitiveness of United States industry*.
- The Committee shall not act in the *absence of a quorum*, which shall consist of a majority of the members of the Committee not having a conflict of interest in the matter being considered by the Committee.
- The Committee may establish such other committees and *subcommittees* of its members as may be necessary.....

# General Format for Meetings

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- Chairman's introductory remarks including vision, expectations, accomplishments, and operating norms for 2007
- Director's introductory remarks including an overview of NIST and its role in the US S&T, response to 2006 VCAT recommendations, FY07 Budget, FY08 Presidents Budget, NIST Budget Status, Organization changes, people recognition, high-level guidance,.....
- Breakout sessions for the three subcommittees:
  - Information Technology
  - Nanotechnology
  - Bio-sciences/Healthcare
- Sub-committee sessions to include presentations of key activities, strengths and areas requiring increased emphasis.  
Lab tours will be conducted highlighting the Key activities.
- Presentations will be given by VCAT members, if appropriate.
- Thematic overview brief by NIST of three sub-committee areas
- Sub-committees Chair's report on the previous day's meetings
- Draft of one or two recommendations to be shared with the NIST attendees

# Recent Happenings

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- Elected a new Chair & Vice Chair: David Spong & Jim Serum
- Submitted Annual Report for 2006
- New VCAT members: Vinton Cerf, Elsa Reichmanis, and William Happer
- Formed three Sub-Committees to better focus in areas that advance the mission of NIST
- New support staff: Janet Brumby and Denise Herbert

# VCAT Sub-Committees

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- The chairs and members of these sub-committees, identified to-date are:

	<b>Information Technology</b>	<b>Biosciences</b>	<b>Nanotechnology</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Wyatt Starnes	Tom Baer	Paul Fleury
<b>VCAT Member</b>	E. David Spong	Lou Ann Heimbrook	John Cassidy
<b>VCAT Member</b>	Gary Floss	Jim Serum	Elsa Reichmanis
<b>VCAT Member</b>	Vinton Cerf	TBD	Bob Williams
<b>NIST Liaison</b>	Cita Furlani	Willie May	Robert Celotta

- Un-assigned VCAT member: William Happer (not attending 03.06.07 mtg.)

# Feedback from VCAT Members

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Recommend the sub-committees dovetail with the NIST Mission Statement to eliminate confusion. (Promote U.S. Innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life) Subcommittees might be focused in the areas of ***measurement science, standards, technology and innovation and industrial competitiveness.***

Concept of Operations as outlined makes sense provided the subcommittees are focused in areas that ***advance the mission of NIST.***

I am fine with subcommittee approach.. .....I think ***key is to outline role and deliverables of a sub-committee model***

Of particular concern to me is the ***competitiveness issue and the participation and influence on US and international standards.*** What is the relationship and level of activity of NIST with ANSI ? Does NIST have a vision of what the global playing field for standards should be? Perhaps a sub-committee devoted to these issues might be useful.

# Actions for Sub-Committee Chairs

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1. Co-opt VCAT members and a NIST liaison to fill out their roster
2. Develop a sub-committee Vision, Mission supporting the NIST Mission “*to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life*” Consider feedback from members
3. Schedule appropriate sub-committee meetings to develop input to NIST on their respective areas including, but not limited to strengths, gaps, additional areas to emphasize, strategies etc. If this input were to be provided to NIST at the mid-point between the VCAT meetings, feedback from NIST could be an agenda item for the following VCAT meeting.



# Meeting Frequency and Dates

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Seq. No.	Date	Location	Suggestions/Comments
II	6, 7 Mar '07	Gaithersburg	Keep the currently planned date, shift to April in '08
III	14, 15 Aug '07	Boulder	Move from Sept to August to get on 4 months cycle
I	11, 12 Dec '07	Gaithersburg	Keep first meeting of FY in December
II	7, 8 April '08	Gaithersburg	Achieves 4 month cycle
III	12, 13 Aug '08	Boulder	Achieves 4 month cycle

# Chairman's & Directors Expectations of VCAT Members

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- Attend VCAT Meetings
- Actively participate in VCAT meetings
- Complete action Items in a timely manner
- Respond to e-mails within a reasonable time

# Questions/Discussion?